

I support media diversity

Re: Docket No. 02-277, To promote competition, diversity and localism into today's media market, I believe the FCC should retain the media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The studies commissioned by the FCC fail; to accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented are becoming far more limited.

The right to discuss current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC encourages media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, please hold additional hearings around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public who stand to be most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but certainly include those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, please take time to review these issues thoroughly and permit the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Milton I. Patrie, Ed.D. 610 East Bluff Drive, Port Angeles WA 98362